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Youth Migration: Northern Perspectives

The Northern Development Councils' Report

**Presented to
The Honourable Shelley Martel,
Minister of Northern Development
at the
Northern Development Councils' Annual Meeting
Thunder Bay, Ontario
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I am proud to introduce a report which is the result of the hard work and dedication of our Northern Development Councils during 1990.

This document, entitled "Youth Migration: Northern Perspectives" is a response to a very real problem — too many of our young people are leaving the North to live elsewhere. In fact, between 1981 and 1986, we experienced a net loss of approximately 25,000 young northerners between the ages of 15 and 24.

Last year, the Northern Development Councils decided to find out why this was happening. Wisely, they went directly to the people who know best. They talked to people of all ages — those who have left, those who stayed, and those who have gone against the trend and moved to the North for the first time. To do this, the Northern Development Councils held a series of community forums and mailed out questionnaires.

I think that it is very significant that the forum participation and the survey response rates were so high. People wanted to express themselves on the subject of youth migration; they were thankful for the opportunity.

This is a special report. It does not contain intricate charts and graphs or studies by experts in the field. Instead, it relies on the words of the people most affected by the problem. We need to listen to them.

As the Minister of Northern Development, I am pleased to acknowledge the thoughtful and valuable work of our Northern Development Councils over the past year.

Shelley Martel
Minister

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Table of Contents

Preface		i
Background to the report		i
I. Introduction		1
Youth Migration		1
Profiles of Youth		1
The Research of the Northern Development Councils		2
II. Why Young People Leave the North		3
Employment Factors		3
Cost of Living and Wage Rates		5
Educational Factors		5
Cultural and Social Factors		7
Isolation and Climatic Factors		8
Lifestyle Factors		9
Destinations		11
III. Why Young People Move to, or Stay in, the North		13
Employment Factors		13
Other Factors		13
IV. Underlying Emotions:		17
How Young People Feel About the North		17
Attachment to the North		17
A Negative Image of the North		18
V. Final Reflections		21
Appendices		
A. Northern Development Councils		23
B. 1990 Northern Development Council Members		25
C. Community Forums on Youth Migration		29
D. Suggested Community Forum Discussion Questions		31
E. NDC Survey		33
F. Youth Population in Northern Ontario, 1971 to 1986		49
G. Net Migration, Northern Ontario, 1971 to 1986		51
H. Net Migration, Northern Ontario, 1971 to 1986 (as a percentage of the population)		53
I. Net Migration, Four Ontario Regions, 1981 to 1986 (as a percentage of the population)		55
J. Primary Reasons for Leaving the North		57
K. Primary Reasons for Moving to the North		59
L. Primary Reasons for Returning to the North		61
M. Primary Reasons for Staying in the North		63

Preface

Background to the report

During the 1980s, youth migration from Northern Ontario became increasingly prevalent. Aware of the impact the significant loss of young people was having on many northern communities, the Minister of Northern Development, at the 1989 NDC Annual Meeting in Timmins, asked the nine Northern Development Councils to explore the reasons behind youth migration. The Councils were established in 1986 by the Minister to provide advice and information on current northern issues. (For more information on the Councils, see Appendices A and B.)

At the heart of the Minister's request was the belief that youth were not leaving the North strictly for economic reasons. Patterns of migration did not always follow shifts in the economy. Clearly, while downturns in the economy, plant closures and mass layoffs significantly influenced the decision of many youth to relocate, these factors did not seem to tell the whole story. The Councils were asked to explore youth migration in terms of social, cultural and psychological factors. They were also asked to examine the motives of young people who either returned to or never left Northern Ontario.

The Northern Development Councils sponsored a series of community forums held during the spring of 1990 in 31 communities across Northern Ontario and in Toronto and Ottawa. The forums explored why some youth left the North, why others decided to come to the North, and why most northern youth remained in the North. Over 800 people attended the forums. (For more details on the forums, see Appendices C and D.)

Forum participants discussed the factors which influenced young people to migrate, their destinations, and the impact on local communities.

In addition to the community forums, the Councils commissioned a survey to further explore the motives behind youth migration to or from Northern Ontario. The survey was delivered to 2,275 people who had spent at least part of their youth living in the North. The list of survey recipients was derived from the names of participants at the community forums and other sources, including lists from northern educational institutions. The survey sample was not statistically representative of any population except community forum participants. (See Appendix E, for a copy of the questionnaire.)

A total of 1,006 people responded to the survey (44.2 percent) and the respondents were divided into four categories: 491 who had moved away from Northern Ontario, 376 who had always lived in the North, 175 who had returned to the North and 124 who had moved into Northern Ontario for the first time after living elsewhere. (160 of the respondents who left the North and later returned are counted in two categories.)

Nearly 600 respondents added comments to the survey forms addressing many different aspects of life in Northern Ontario. Many included detailed summaries of individual migration histories, and some provided suggestions for reversing the out-migration flow.

I. Introduction

Youth Migration

According to census data, there were approximately 163,000 people between the ages of 15 and 24 living in Northern Ontario in 1981. In the subsequent five years, there was a net loss from Northern Ontario of approximately 25,000 young people. (See Appendix G.)

This net loss equals approximately 15 percent of the youth population in 1981, and most of the loss was due to a decline among individuals who were aged 15 to 19 in 1981. (See Appendix H.)

It appears a net migration from Northern Ontario has been occurring for several decades. The period 1981 to 1986, however, marks the highest net loss of young people from the North.

The migration of young people from rural areas and small towns to large urban areas has been common to nearly all industrialized nations. Within Ontario, this pattern has occurred in the eastern, central, and southwestern regions, as well as Northern Ontario. But, it appears the North has experienced a significantly higher net loss of young people in proportion to the size of its youth population. (See Appendix I for a comparison of four Ontario regions.)

Since 1986, the date of the last census, there are some indications the extent of net migration from Northern Ontario may be dropping, both in terms of actual numbers and as a proportion of the youth population.

Profiles of Youth

The 1986 Census data provides useful details of the characteristics of young people moving from and to the North during the previous five years. For instance, it suggests:

- Francophones were less likely to migrate than anglophones.
- As a group, youth who had moved away from the North were significantly more educated as a group than those who had remained, and moderately more educated than those who had moved to the North.
- A significantly higher proportion of young people who left the North found employment in managerial, professional and clerical positions. They also tended to earn higher incomes than those who remained in the North.

While the above census information provides some hard data, the research of the Northern Development Councils gives an incisive look at the personal reasons underlying migration patterns.

The Research of the Northern Development Councils

Given that there has been a significant net migration of young people from the North, and that they tend to represent the more educated youth, the Northern Development Councils (NDCs) were asked to explore the reasons why young people were leaving.

The NDCs proceeded on the assumption that a young person's decision to migrate was not always made entirely on the basis of economic reasoning. The NDCs wanted to learn how much that decision was influenced by social, cultural, and emotional factors.

The NDCs acknowledged that economic factors are crucial in explaining why many young people move away from a particular region. Plant closures, mass layoffs, and changes in economic conditions resulting in reductions in the number of available jobs clearly affect the extent of migration from a region.

Northern Ontario, with its reliance on the resource sector, has been especially susceptible to shifts in world commodity prices and to the effects of a boom-or-bust economy. Because of the large number of single-industry communities, a plant closure in Northern Ontario often forces individuals to leave their community to obtain work. At times, workers relocate within the North but, more often, they tend to head to the large urban centres of southern Ontario.

While the migration of youth from Northern Ontario dominated their concerns, the NDCs were also interested in exploring the motives behind the migration of a significant number of young people into the North.

The NDC research involved a series of community forums and a mail-out survey. While members of all social and economic groups were invited, participants tended to be predominantly middle-class with some post-secondary education. Fifty-eight percent of survey respondents were female and the average age of all respondents was 34.

No significant differences were observed between respondents from Northwestern or Northeastern Ontario, but the results do reflect some differences between respondents from small communities and those from larger towns and cities.

The following pages contain the findings from the NDC research. They present, as far as possible, the views and feelings of survey respondents and community forum participants. These speak for themselves and should provide a focus for discussion and action.

II. Why Young People Leave the North

Employment Factors

The NDC community forum and mail survey results show that obtaining employment is a major reason young northerners move to southern Ontario and to other locations. These reasons include:

- a job offer in the area of destination (identified by 30 percent of respondents as a factor in their decision to leave the North)
- a perception of a wider range of employment opportunities in the area of destination (identified by 29 percent of respondents)
- a limited range of employment opportunities in Northern Ontario (identified by 27 percent of respondents) or a lack of employment in the North (identified by 20 percent as a factor).

Some respondents felt northern employment opportunities were limited to dead-end jobs or blue-collar work. Other respondents made the following comments:

"There is absolutely NOTHING here for us... The North consists of jobs for miners, bars for miners, activities for young teens, activities for seniors. We have nothing to do. Nothing."

"After graduation from high school, there was a choice of work in the pulp mill or leave town."

"Jobs, for the most part, are limited to the forestry industry and to construction."
(original quote in French)

For some respondents, a lack of awareness about job opportunities in the North presented a problem. A Laurentian University student in Sudbury wrote:

"More awareness and/or marketing of the available Northern Ontario employers would be beneficial to the students in their final year."

Besides employment opportunities, young people also appear to leave Northern Ontario for reasons related to career opportunities (28 percent of respondents identified good career prospects in the area of destination as a reason for leaving the North). For many young people, merely finding a job is not enough. They want employment which is both related to their training and which provides an opportunity for advancement.

Several respondents felt these opportunities were available only outside the North, as the following comments illustrate:

"If you want to be successful in your career and move up the business ladder, southern Ontario is the place to start."

"Here (Ottawa), I can be a successful businesswoman; there (Northern Ontario), I would probably be a cashier or receptionist somewhere!"

"Living in the North is great except for one major stumbling block: career opportunities."

"The only reason we left Northern Ontario was because my husband was transferred. He had gone as far as he could in the North and the only way to advance more was to move south."

"My family lives in the North, but however, I must admit that my career is... unfortunately... in the south." (original quote in French)

"The only reason I would leave (the North) is to further my career, but it will be hard to leave the area."

"We have seriously discussed returning to the North. (However, my husband) would find little or no opportunity for advancement in the North."

The fact that many large northern employers have their head offices elsewhere and that northern operations are often regional or branch facilities, seems to be a contributing factor. One respondent noted:

"The dependence on our major industry is very evident in the residents' attitudes. There isn't a feeling of ownership. People are reluctant to plan long-term in our community, or to try opening their own businesses, because mining and forestry are so unpredictable."

Language also appears to be a factor affecting employment opportunities in the North for some people. The following comments reflect feelings of frustration expressed by several respondents:

"I was educated in the North and had no way of knowing that my inability to speak French, despite my higher education, would have such a detriment on my career possibilities."

"The majority of job opportunities and job advancements in the social work field in Northern Ontario necessitate a social worker to be fluent in English and French."

"Job opportunities are scarce in Northern Ontario for people who are not bilingual."

Cost of Living and Wage Rates

Several respondents cited the cost of living and/or lower wages in Northern Ontario as a reason for leaving. Comments included the following:

"The cost of living in Northern Ontario is very high. Groceries, transportation and access to adequate health care is expensive... The wages are too low to offset the cost of living."

"I have many, many friends who have left North Bay mainly for wage increases... They found approximately a ten dollar per hour discrepancy with many jobs."

Educational Factors

Over 31 percent of respondents identified educational opportunities as affecting their decision to leave Northern Ontario. Every year, approximately 2,000 northerners enter the first year of a community college or university program in southern Ontario.

It appears the decision to study at an institution outside the North often represents a step towards long-term or permanent relocation, as the following comments from respondents reveal:

"When people leave the North to study elsewhere, it is very likely they'll settle in this other city. You make new friends and jobs are more plentiful in the south, so young people end up staying there." (original quote in French)

"After five years of university in London and Ottawa, I married and became employed in Ottawa. I just stayed because my life is here now — not because of any aversion to Northern Ontario."

"I left Northern Ontario to attend school, always intending to return... My husband and I own a business... and moving back to Northern Ontario is not an option at this time."

"I left the North to pursue my education. At first, I had no intention of leaving the North permanently; I had not abandoned the possibility of returning to Hearst after university. However, I became less attached to the northern region with time, until I became completely estranged. I stopped visiting summers and settled in Ottawa. My decision to live elsewhere was very gradual and education was certainly the catalyst." (original quote in French)

There are varying reasons underlying the decision by a northern resident to attend a college or university outside the region. Many respondents identified the desire to take a program that was not available locally.

The limited range of programs available at northern universities frustrated many respondents. Following is a sample of their comments:

“I am really dismayed at the lack of opportunity to pursue a Masters degree except to leave Northern Ontario and go south.”

“There are very few Masters’ programs (if any, at all) in Northern Ontario which do not require that you leave the city at one point or another.” (original quote in French)

“There is a great need for the northern universities to expand their professional programs.”

“I sincerely regret that Northern Ontario educational opportunities are so slim. Why have we not received support for the improvement of education in the medical and dental fields? There should also be greater educational opportunities for continuing adult education.”

“Students have no choice, but to head south to access medical, legal and research faculties (Ph.Ds and post-doctoral studies).” (original quote in French)

A few francophone respondents identified the limited range of French educational opportunities as a reason for pursuing their studies elsewhere. As one respondent stated:

“The fact that there are limited French post-secondary educational opportunities in the region may prompt me to leave Northern Ontario in the near future.” (original quote in French)

It appears some northern youth attend southern educational institutions, not because a particular program is unavailable in the North, but because they feel they can receive a better education, or obtain a diploma or degree that is more respected by employers, elsewhere. This perception is reflected in the following comments:

“When it came time to consider a university... going to a school in the North was not a consideration.”

“It was believed that to get a good education, you had to go south.”

“The main reason for leaving Northern Ontario was to attend Engineering school at a recognized university.”

Many parents attending the community forums indicated they would send their children to southern universities in preference to northern institutions because they felt the education was superior. This perception appears to be reinforced by the advice of many guidance counsellors in northern high schools.

One respondent suggested northern universities should work to change this negative image:

“Perhaps our northern institutions need to promote a more progressive, aggressive image to compete for more northern students and to entice students from Southern Ontario to experience the North.”

Finally, some respondents acknowledged that many youth attend college or university away from home because of what they gain in addition to a formal education. As one respondent stated:

“It’s understandable that our high school graduates will want to go south for their post-secondary education—not necessarily for the schooling, but the experience of living away from home, learning to become independent, and seeing what it’s like to live in a city or larger town.”

Cultural and Social Factors

A wide variety of factors, neither economic nor educational, appear to figure in an individual’s decision to relocate. Many of these may be classified loosely as cultural or social factors. Although it appears these factors are not usually the primary motive, the NDC research suggests they do influence decisions by young people to migrate.

Respondents were clearly influenced by what was available or not available in their own communities. The NDC survey results do indicate, however, that attractions of the new location were more important in the decision to leave the North than were limited services or activities in the North.

Services or activities identified by respondents as lacking in their community and important in their decision to leave the North include: medical services, sports and recreational facilities and social activities. Following is a sample of comments expressed by respondents:

“There is a need to go outside of Northern Ontario for... medical services for children with special needs.”

“My wife has health problems and we very much doubt that she could, quickly, have access to the same level of medical that we have access to here.”

“There are very limited medical services and no support groups.”

“No incentive here for young adults. No rec centre, no teen club. Lots of hockey, but nothing else.”

“The social life (i.e., the bars) and the city amenities (the big shopping malls, the tanning centres, the fitness facilities) eventually draw them.” (original quote in French)

Some respondents, in explaining why they left Northern Ontario, criticized aspects of the infrastructure in the North, including the transportation system. For example:

"The Trans Canada Highway is in a deplorable state and (is) an embarrassment for the residents. The only passenger train was cancelled and many residents depended on it for transportation!"

Several respondents cited better cultural opportunities in their area of destination as one factor prompting them to leave the North. Some of these feelings are captured in the following comments:

"I have a beautiful little baby girl now and I want her to do things, like play whatever sport she wants or take dance classes or ballet or sing or figure skate. I want her to know about things like museums and art and business when she's older. All these things I want for her and my future children. Her choices would be very limited in Northern Ontario."

"Southern Ontario is more diversified culturally and economically."

Some respondents noted the lack of French cultural activities as a factor in the decision by francophones to relocate to Ottawa, Montreal or Toronto. This is reflected in the following two comments:

"It is extremely hard to keep very bright, French-speaking people and professionals because they prefer to live in places like Ottawa or Montreal."

"The quality of spoken French in Sudbury diminished every year. That's the main reason why the Ottawa region interests me so much." (original quote in French)

Some participants in the Native community forums noted poor social and economic conditions on reserves often convinced them to leave. In addition, some Natives indicated they had witnessed examples of prejudice in the hiring practices of some northern employers, which influenced their decisions to move to the larger urban centres in southern Ontario.

Isolation and Climatic Factors

Factors related to isolation were identified by some respondents as a motive for leaving the North. The following comments describe some of the costs of

"Northern Ontario is very isolated and a lot of necessities are either expensive or not available."

"People living in Northern Ontario are very limited to exposure of any day-to-day conveniences that city life offers... Travel abroad or south is limited due to difficulty of travelling to a major airport. People pay high prices for gasoline, heating in the home, lousy vegetables and meat, and all because of remote locations. They pay a high price to live in the remoteness of northern Ontario."

“Even bigger is the problem of remoteness and the expense of flying into the area... For a few dollars more you could fly to London, England.”

“The freshness and availability of market produce I see as a problem. With one grocery store in town, they sell produce that stores in Toronto would throw out.”

Several respondents indicated the harsh northern climate was a factor in having left the North or in possible future plans to move away. Following are a few of their comments:

“The long winters, the buggy springs and short summers are often taken into consideration when deciding to move here or leave here!”

“As for leaving here, it’s because summers are very short and the shovelling season is too long.”

“In the south, I don’t need the winter clothing I would need up north, nor does it cost as much to heat a house down here.”

“I find the climate in Sudbury terrible most of the time. This is the reason I would leave.”

Lifestyle Factors

A number of less-tangible factors were mentioned by respondents as being important in their decision to leave the North. These generally related to lifestyles. For example, words such as “dull” and “boring” were used by some to describe Northern Ontario. This sentiment was captured in comments, such as the following:

“What I don’t like is the lack of social opportunities for single adults.”

“For social and entertainment outing, Northern Ontario offers little if nothing at all! For students, this is extremely boring.”

“As a teenager, I find that there are limited things to do with your social time... My friends and I find difficulty in finding things to do. There doesn’t seem to be lot ‘out there’ for us young people to do.”

Conversely, “exciting” and “lots to do” reflected the perspective of many young northerners toward southern cities.

Nearly 44 percent of the NDC survey respondents who had left the North indicated they were influenced in their decision to migrate by new experiences and lifestyles in the area of destination.

Some respondents identified other negative aspects of life in Northern Ontario as influencing their decision to leave. For example, many new residents experience difficulties in adapting to their new community, as the following comments indicate:

"We often felt that as we were not born and bred in the North, we were outsiders and... were treated as such by the establishment... Employers leaned or seemed to lean toward those raised in the North."

"The 'cards' were so 'stacked against me' that I could never be successful here... My family was not well-known and not 'connected'."

"My wife has found it hard to get a job because of the attitude of giving jobs to friends and family members of long-time local residents."

Other respondents noted a high degree of male chauvinism creating particular difficulties for single women, both socially and in terms of employment opportunities. For example:

"The jobs for women here are very limited and the pay is terrible. There is no need to wonder why young females leave as soon as possible."

"Females are especially handicapped... due to overt/covert attitudes as to 'womens' place. Females here are particularly vulnerable to out-migration pressures just to survive."

Many respondents felt a crucial part of the informal education of young people requires that they leave their community. Migrating to another region was seen as a reflection of the desire of youth "to explore and seek new horizons, to try their own wings" or "the normal attitude of young people wishing to venture forth." One francophone respondent noted:

"I was looking for a little freedom and was interested in making my life elsewhere to meet new people." (original quote in French)

Finally, it appears many young people left their northern communities because their friends had already left. Two respondents observed:

"(Being) close to friends/peers living in southern Ontario was a factor in my decision to relocate."

"Of all my high school friends that were in Thunder Bay, only one remains there now."

Destinations

While most young people head towards urban centres located outside of northern Ontario, there are significant differences in destination between the language groups. It appears anglophones are more likely to move to Toronto, while a large proportion of francophones tend to favour the Ottawa region.

The NDC research suggests friends and relatives figure strongly in where northern youth decide to relocate. Young people, especially those not pursuing further education, tend to move to places where they already have an existing network of family or friends.

III. Why Young People Move to, or Stay in, the North

The migration of young people from Northern Ontario is not a one-way street. There are northerners who moved away for a period of time and later returned. There are young people who moved to Northern Ontario from other regions of the province, from other provinces or from outside the country.

Finally, there are many young people who were raised in the North and choose to stay there.

Employment Factors

Based on NDC survey responses and comments made in the community forums, employment factors appear to be very important in understanding why youth move to the North. A job offer in Northern Ontario was the single-most important motive among respondents who moved to Northern Ontario (identified by 49 percent as a factor). Many respondents expressed opinions similar to the following:

“I moved to Northern Ontario because I was offered a full-time teaching position. There were no other considerations.”

“My return to Northern Ontario occurred totally on the basis of a chance encounter in Toronto which led to a job offer.”

Some respondents who moved to Northern Ontario felt opportunities to get ahead were better in the North since there was often less competition for positions and fewer layers of bureaucracy in many companies. One respondent observed that:

“In terms of professional advancement, chances are much better in the North than in other regions of Ontario.” (original quote in French)

One forum participant noted there are “tremendous untapped entrepreneurial opportunities in the North.” Others praised opportunities for less-skilled workers and the higher wages paid for some blue-collar jobs.

Other Factors

The cost of living was identified by 25 percent of respondents as influencing their decisions to either move to or remain in the North. Recent cost increases in southern Ontario, primarily in the housing market, appear to have made the North’s affordability a factor.

Established networks of family, friends and relatives were most-frequently cited as influencing the decisions of young people to either remain in the North or return to the North (identified as a factor by 45 percent of respondents in these categories). Two respondents wrote:

“I returned to my hometown of Kenora because my roots were there.”

“My number one reason for returning (to Northern Ontario) was that I missed my family and friends.”

For respondents who have remained in Northern Ontario or who moved to the North, either for the first time or returning home, the northern lifestyle was important. Nearly 34 percent of respondents in these categories identified the northern lifestyle as a factor in their decision.

Some of the North’s lifestyle features which attract young people are tangible. They include a clean environment, lakes and woods, and proximity to outdoor activities, such as canoeing, fishing and cross-country skiing. The following comments illustrate the importance of these attractions:

“Another advantage of the North: sports are accessible to all (in the larger centres, these services are more costly and selective).” (original quote in French)

“We would like to live in Northern Ontario because it does offer an appealing lifestyle and environment (clean, natural with recreational activities), and because we want to be closer to family.”

“Clean air, water, fresh woods have always been Northern Ontario’s drawing cards.”

Some respondents urged that these features of Northern Ontario be better developed and promoted. For example, one respondent noted:

“The environmental and recreational activities are compelling and efforts should certainly be taken to aggressively promote and develop the opportunities associated with a clean environment and fabulous recreational/tourism potential.”

A number of less-tangible lifestyle factors, such as a preference for small community living and a slower pace of life, were also identified by several of the respondents, as the following comments illustrate:

“I like the fact that everything is so much more quiet, the air is pure, my child is much freer — wide-open space, nature, outdoor sports, and that the lifestyle is much more relaxed, less stressful.” (original quote in French)

“After years of schooling, the cultural/social aspects of the North seemed more appealing i.e. sense of community, nature and related sports, and less hustle and bustle of a larger centre.”

“I did not like the noisy city, with its pollution and all the hubbub. I returned to the North and started a family, and I am quite happy despite our everyday troubles.” (original quote in French)

“(The North’s attractive features include) small towns and cities free of the problems associated with the large metropolis of the South: crime, stress, indifference of people, high cost of living, unaffordable housing, etc.”

Several participants in the Native community forums indicated many Native young people either remained in the North, or returned home after living elsewhere, because of their strong roots in the North. The Native culture and lifestyle, an affinity for the outdoors and the desire to be close to family and friends were very important to them.

Nearly 33 percent of survey respondents who had either remained in the North or moved to the North were influenced by a lifestyle that was “favourable to family life.” Moreover, several respondents who left the North acknowledged it was ideal for raising a family. Following is a sample of the comments expressing this sentiment:

“I believe Northern Ontario offers superior family life and opportunities.”

“There are lots of advantages. It’s a good place to raise your kids.”

“The people are much warmer and friendlier up north, and its the kind of atmosphere I would want my kids to grow up in.”

“I fondly remember growing up in Terrace Bay. It was an ideal place to grow up in. Sometimes I wish I could raise my kids there.”

“Northern Ontario is a great place to raise kids. The crime rate is low, no pollution, and the people are friendly and trustworthy.”

“Northern Ontario is beautiful and tranquil... I regret that I cannot raise my children there as I know they would have benefited immensely.”

A few respondents came to Northern Ontario from outside the region to pursue their education. Some came for the benefits of a small university. Others came to take programs that are in high demand across the province, such as teacher education and dental hygiene.

Some francophone respondents identified the opportunity to study or work in French as important in their decision to move to or remain in the North. Comments include the following:

“My initial reason to move North was to maintain my mother tongue — French.”

“I appreciate living in my mother tongue everywhere in the region.” (original quote in French)

“I have always lived in the North because I have the chance to study in French.” (original quote in French)

“The francophone environment that can be found here and there in the North, both on a professional level as well as in the family context, is an important factor in our decision to stay here.” (original quote in French)

The NDC research suggests Northern Ontario offers a real alternative for some people, and provides opportunities not available in other parts of the province.

One element increasing the North's appeal appears to be a diminishing sense of isolation. New technologies are making Northern Ontario more accessible to outsiders. They bring to the North many comforts and amenities previously the exclusive domain of southern cities. In addition, improved transportation networks make it easier to get from many northern communities to southern Ontario and other areas.

One respondent suggested that:

"The facilities offered in the Sault now are very similar if not the same as larger urban centres."

Another growing trend is a shift in migration patterns. As major cities in the North — primarily Sudbury and Thunder Bay — become important regional centres for culture, entertainment, education, medical services, etc., more people from smaller northern communities choose to relocate within the North rather than to southern Ontario.

IV. Underlying Emotions:

How Young People Feel About the North

Besides providing a glimpse into why young people migrate from and to Northern Ontario, the survey and community forums provide significant insights into how northern youth feel about the North.

A prevailing sense of close identification with the North exists throughout the research. A significant number of respondents have a strong emotional relationship with the North. Paradoxically, two competing elements seem to dominate this relationship: a genuine attachment to Northern Ontario and a negative image of the North.

Attachment to the North

Community forum participants and survey respondents identify with Northern Ontario and hold a genuine attachment to the region. Comments include:

“Once the ‘North’ is in your blood it is hard to break away for good — it seems most return at some point.”

“Northern Ontario, for all the reasons you wish to leave, they eventually will bring you back. The hold it has on many people is hard to explain.”

“I used to think in my darkest moments that I was a fool ever to have left such a wonderful place. It is still the root of my soul.”

“I know that I’ll always be a northerner in my heart and proud to have been born and raised one!”

“My roots and my heart shall always be in Northern Ontario.”

This sense of identity with the North is apparent among respondents who no longer live in Northern Ontario, many of whom indicated they had not wanted to leave the North, but felt they had to, either for their careers or their educational goals. Many stated they missed the North and many indicated a desire to return. Some expressed a willingness even to make sacrifices in order to return. For example, one respondent wrote:

“I can see myself taking a lesser job at less pay in order to move back to Northern Ontario. So it’s either: love the work, hate the place or hate the work, love the place.”

Some respondents indicated that living in another part of the province or country helped them appreciate Northern Ontario.

Some found the northern lifestyle more appealing after experiencing the fast-paced, cold and impersonal life of a major city. Two respondents expressed these feelings in the following ways:

"We didn't realize what we had till we got back... The clear blue waters, the fresh air and beauty were something we really never appreciated till it was gone."

"I don't regret having lived in Southern Ontario. I have benefited from the perspective it has given me. Now I know I prefer the North!"

For many, it appears the decision to leave the North was a difficult one. They knew they would miss their family, friends and the northern lifestyle and environment. The decision appears to have been more a decision of the head than of the heart. One respondent wrote:

"The decision to accept a job in Toronto was made against my better judgement."
(original quote in French)

A Negative Image of the North

Despite the attachment to Northern Ontario exhibited by residents and former residents, a negative image of Northern Ontario and of things northern seems to prevail. This negative image appears to influence the decision of many young people to leave the North.

The image manifests itself in many ways. For example, northern employment opportunities are perceived to be low-paying and blue-collar, and northern educational institutions are thought to offer very limited fare. There is a perception that northern cities provide little in the way of cultural or social amenities.

Based on the survey and community forum responses, it seems some respondents felt that if something were in the North, it is in some way second-rate." This feeling is reflected in comments such as: "Only people who can't get in elsewhere go to Laurentian or Lakehead University", "You don't need to be as good to get a job in the North", or "Local people are not good enough".

Some respondents felt that to succeed, an individual needed to make it in southern Ontario. One respondent commented:

"A major drawback to living in the North is the perception by the rest of the country and especially Toronto that one must be some kind of loser or incompetent or rustic to live here."

Another respondent wrote about northerners who move to the south:

"Once they get there, they find it is no better than Northern Ontario... Many stay, just because if you go back North, people think there is something wrong with you."

One respondent suggested the media has reinforced this negative image of the North:

"TV programs and lifestyle shows display only what urban life is like — students attending large high schools with theatres, swimming pools, extensive education programs, fast-food places and cinemas. If students perceive this to be the best and only way to live, then they will have a negative view on northern living altogether... Somehow, from the early years of a youngster's life, positive enrichment about northern living has to be given."

V. Final Reflections

The results from the community forums and survey provide a wealth of information about the perceptions, values, priorities, and goals of a significant sample of the Northern Ontario population.

The information demonstrates first and foremost that there are many and varied factors influencing the decisions of young people to leave the North. People migrate because incentives draw them to another area or because something, or the lack of something, in their home area compels them to leave or, at least, they perceive this to be the case.

The results also affirm that Northern Ontario provides a real alternative for many young people, offering features which attract them to this region.

The results of this study are self-evident. Respondents show a deep concern about the North and a strong desire for action. They are sufficiently attached to the North to believe in its future. These feelings are best summed up by the respondents speaking for themselves:

“One of the biggest ironies is that young educated Northerners who have left the region and who theoretically could contribute to solving some of the long-range problems of the North are excluded from the region due to lack of opportunities.”

“The area is too slow to accept change and this frustrates young, aggressive people. They have no choice but to move.”

“Although it appears unlikely I will ever be able to return, I remain optimistic and confident in the potential and attractiveness of Northern Ontario.”

“The North offers many things to all of us. Hopefully, employment conditions will improve so that many young people will be able to remain in the area if that is their wish.”

It is now the responsibility of everyone in the North, including all levels of government, labour, business, educational institutions and social agencies, to consider these reflections carefully and to work together to develop initiatives which will ensure that young people will thrive in the North.

As one young respondent pleaded:

“I hope this information will help you to determine why we leave and hopefully something can be done economically speaking so that I will not have to leave.”

Appendix A

Northern Development Councils

The Northern Development Councils (NDCs) were created in 1986 by Order in Council of Cabinet. Their mandate was renewed in March 1989 for a further three-year period. The Northern Development Councils are chaired by the Minister of Northern Development.

The main role of the NDCs is to provide advice to the Minister of Northern Development, and other Ministries as appropriate, on northern economic and social development, opportunities and concerns. The advice of each NDC is brought forward through an Advisory Committee, made up of the Chairperson of each Northern Development Council.

Councils must prepare an annual work plan to be developed in conjunction with the Ministry and approved by the Minister or a designate. The annual work plan includes projects to be undertaken, meeting schedules, discussion topics and methodology. During 1990, the Councils focused their work on the youth in Northern Ontario.

NDC members, drawn from a variety of interests and backgrounds, and reflecting broad local development potential, are appointed by the Minister of Northern Development.

The nine council areas are:

- Kenora/Rainy River
- Thunder Bay and Area
- Superior North
- Cochrane and Area
- Nipissing and Area
- Timiskaming and Area
- Algoma Manitoulin
- Parry Sound and Area
- Sudbury Region

Appendix B

1990 Northern Development Council Members

Kenora/Rainy River NDC

Donald Parfitt	Chairperson	Kenora
Bill Hatfield	Vice-Chairperson	Sioux Lookout
Annette Romanek	Member	Kenora
Stan Leschuk	Member	Ear Falls
Ida Olson	Member	Emo
Edward Broadhurst	Member	Dryden
Stewart Reid	Member	Balmerton
Albert Wesley	Member	Sioux Lookout
Ron Slemko	Member	Pickle Lake
Darrell Morgan	Member	Sioux Lookout
Karl Van Heyst	Member	Emo
Willie Wilson	Member	Emo
Joan Allison	Member	Fort Frances

Thunder Bay NDC

Jack Masters	Chairperson	Thunder Bay
Larry Fontana	Vice-Chairperson	Atikokan
Joy Neill	Member	Armstrong
Vic Prokopchuk	Member	Atikokan
Karen Pappin	Member	Thunder Bay
Ted Bakker	Member	Paipoonge
Ruth Armstrong	Member	Thunder Bay
Fred Miron	Member	Thunder Bay
Bob Gillis	Member	Ignace
Lorne Crawford	Member	Thunder Bay
Lynda Betcherman	Member	Thunder Bay
James Boeckner	Member	Thunder Bay

Superior North NDC

Renald Beaulieu	Chairperson	Longlac
Wendy Bell	Vice-Chairperson	Marathon
Dick Harkness	Member	Marathon
Michael Power	Member	Geraldton
Milan Spoljarich	Member	Red Rock
Thomas Bagdon	Member	White River
Mary Burnett	Member	Rossport
Eric Rutherford	Member	Beardmore
Peter McLeod	Member	Manitouwadge
Clyde Gordon	Member	Schreiber
Leslie Dickson	Member	Terrace Bay

Cochrane and Area NDC

Dennis Welin	Chairperson	Timmins
Michael Kentish	Vice-Chairperson	Timmins
Jemima Baxter	Member	Calstock
Carole Charette	Member	Iroquois Falls
Colette Dorion	Member	Matheson
Dorothy Enright	Member	Hearst
Bill Hutchinson	Member	Moosonee
Roland Lacroix	Member	Hallebourg
Marcel Payette	Member	Gogama
Jack Phillips	Member	Cochrane
Julien Proulx	Member	Kapuskasing
Norman Rivard	Member	Kapuskasing
Hélène Valiquette	Member	Smooth Rock Falls

Nipissing and District NDC

Louise Landriault	Chairperson	North Bay
Michael Decaen	Vice-Chairperson	Sturgeon Falls
Roger Beaudry	Member	Verner
Jacques Bégin	Member	Mattawa
Phil Goulais	Member	Sturgeon Falls
Sherry Hudson	Member	North Bay
Léo Mallette	Member	Cache Bay
David Marshall	Member	North Bay
Vern McKinnon	Member	North Bay
Barbara Morkunas	Member	Trout Creek
Merv Oshell	Member	Powassan
Shelagh Pendergast	Member	North Bay
Jack Sullivan	Member	North Bay
Claude Mayer	Member	Noelville

Timiskaming NDC

Mary O'Connor	Chairperson	Kirkland Lake
Tom Deprés	Vice-Chairperson	Haileybury
Jeannine Armstrong	Member	New Liskeard
Bridgette Auger-Moise	Member	New Liskeard
Pierre Bélanger	Member	Earlton
Linda Cote	Member	Cobalt
William Dodds	Member	Kirkland Lake
Terry Fiset	Member	Elk Lake
Rita McDermid	Member	Latchford
Ollie Rivard	Member	Kirkland Lake
Gary Struthers	Member	Englehart
Jo-Ann Thompson	Member	Larder Lake
Marj Welsh	Member	Temagami

Algoma Manitoulin NDC

Robert Ewing	Chairperson	Sault Ste. Marie
Vic Badenhorst	Vice-Chairperson	Gore Bay
William Cachagee	Member	Chapleau
Lila Cyr	Member	Blind River
Helen Goodchild	Member	Webbwood
Terry Jones	Member	Espanola
Lloyd Martin	Member	Thessalon
Betty McGie	Member	Wawa
Archie Wilson	Member	Mindemoya
Deane Stinson	Member	Sault Ste. Marie
Claire Dimock	Member	Elliot Lake
Kelly Weeks	Member	Sault Ste. Marie
Douglas Souliere	Member	Elliot Lake

Parry Sound and Area NDC

George Doxey	Chairperson	North York
Leah Welk	Vice-Chairperson	Parry Sound
James Marshall	Member	Parry Sound
Paul Gray	Member	Nobel
Greg Thornborrow	Member	South River
Connie Cunningham	Member	Parry Sound
Kelly Rand	Member	Emsdale
Jeff Stevenson	Member	Parry Sound
Betty Gough	Member	Port Loring
Cecil Westover	Member	Parry Sound
Art Whiteside	Member	Burk's Falls
Lynn Ingham	Member	South River
Vince Chechock	Member	Parry Sound
Mary Brown	Member	Parry Sound

Sudbury and Region NDC

Monique Sabourin	Chairperson	Sudbury
Jim Miller	Vice-Chairperson	Sudbury
Bill Biggs	Member	Alban
Nellie Lanteigne	Member	Hanmer
Annyse Poulson	Member	Sudbury
Ron MacDonald	Member	Sudbury
Charles White	Member	Lively
Oryst Sawchuck	Member	Sudbury
Debbi Nicholson	Member	Sudbury
Lionel Lalonde	Member	Chelmsford
Lyla Kinoshameg	Member	Sudbury
Oiva Saarinen	Member	Sudbury
Karen DeBenedet	Member	Copper Cliff
Nicole Boivin	Member	Sudbury

Appendix C

Community Forums on Youth Migration

Dates and Locations

April 9, 1990	Schreiber
April 10, 1990	Armstrong
April 17, 1990	New Liskeard (French)
April 18, 1990	New Liskeard
April 18, 1990	Dryden
April 19, 1990	Fort Frances
April 20, 1990	West Bay
April 23, 1990	Marathon
April 24, 1990	Atikokan
April 25, 1990	Sturgeon Falls (French)
April 26, 1990	Kenora
April 27, 1990	Blind River
April 30, 1990	Fort Frances (Native)
May 2, 1990	Sudbury (French)
May 3, 1990	Iroquois Falls (French)
May 7, 1990	Hearst (French)
May 7, 1990	Parry Sound
May 8, 1990	Sault Ste. Marie
May 9, 1990	Wawa
May 9, 1990	Ignace
May 9, 1990	Kirkland Lake
May 10, 1990	North Bay (Native)
May 10, 1990	Thunder Bay
May 10, 1990	Sudbury (English, Native)
May 14, 1990	Timmins (French)
May 15, 1990	North Bay
May 15, 1990	Geraldton
May 16, 1990	Longlac (French)
May 17, 1990	Sioux Lookout
May 17, 1990	Kapuskasing
May 24, 1990	Timmins
June 19, 1990	Toronto
June 20, 1990	Ottawa
June 21, 1990	Ottawa (French)

Appendix D

Community Forums on Youth Migration Suggested Discussion Group Questions

Motives

- a) What are the main reasons why young people leave Northern Ontario?
- b) What are the main reasons why young people return to Northern Ontario?
- c) Why do young people remain in Northern Ontario?
- d) Why do young people move within Northern Ontario?
- e) Other than economic factors, what factors do young persons consider when making a decision to leave, remain, return or move to Northern Ontario?

Decision-Making Process

- a) Who are the key players/people involved in the decision-making process? What particular influence does each player have? (i.e. parents, friends, teachers, etc.)
- b) How is the decision to migrate or stay made? Who makes the final decision? What happens when this decision is made?
- c) Are there any moments or time-frames that are critical in the decision-making process? (i.e. high school, college or university, first full-time job, etc.)
- d) Where do most young people move to? In areas of destination, are there any support networks?

Appendix E

NDC Survey

MIGRATION RESEARCH PROJECT

Youth in Northern Ontario

This questionnaire is an important research tool. It is the final part of a research project on the migration patterns of youth in Northern Ontario, undertaken by the Northern Ontario Development Councils.

Your participation is essential to the success of this study.

The problem could be summed up as follows. In the last few years a large number of young people have left Northern Ontario. At the same time, shortages of professionals and trades are being reported. Some analysts are predicting that this situation will change the social and economic structure of Northern Ontario by the year 2000.

The migration of youth is a complex phenomenon which requires an in-depth analysis. Your answers to this questionnaire will provide the invaluable information required to determine what leads to the decision to move, or not move, and the consequences of this decision.

This questionnaire can be completed in approximately thirty minutes.

All the responses will remain strictly confidential and all the questionnaires will be anonymous so that none can be identified later.

Do not sign your name.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the people listed on page 6.

Roger Bernard, Ph.D.
Consultant
(613) 235-5101 (after 6:00 pm)

Filling out the questionnaire :

1. To answer most questions, circle the corresponding number as shown in the two examples below.
2. If a question is followed by a blank, please write your answer on the line ().
3. Read carefully the questions, the statements and the instructions.
4. If you do not work outside the home or did not work outside the home, please indicate "working at home" for occupation.
5. Do not circle the numbers that are bracketed.
6. Northern Ontario includes the following districts: Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury and Timiskaming.

Examples :

1. Indicate your sex.

Female
Male

(1)
2

2. How old were you on June 1, 1990 ?

24

3. What is your present occupation ?

Job title : Registered Nurse (RN)
Description : Operating Room
Type of company : Notre-Dame Hospital

4. What are the five main reasons prompting you to remain a resident of Northern Ontario ?

The most important
2nd most important
3rd most important
4th most important
5th most important
1 2 3 4 5

47) Better opportunities for career prospects in Northern Ontario 1 2 (3) 4 5
48) The living environment of the South is too polluted and stressful (noise, traffic, pollution...) 1 2 3 (4) 5
50) I would like to stay close to my family, relatives and friends that are living in Northern Ontario 1 (2) 3 4 5
57) In general the quality of life in Northern Ontario is superior to the one found in other regions 1 2 3 4 5
58) Looking for the wilderness and remoteness of Northern Ontario 1 2 3 4 (5)
45) Northern Ontario offers a clean environment (1) 2 3 4 5
51) Higher wages in Northern Ontario 1 2 3 4 5

Select the five (5) items and then rank them from 1 to 5.

2

Questionnaire #

____/____/____

(1-4)

Card 1 ____

(5)

*Section A**General questions for all respondents*

1) How old were you on June 1, 1990?

(6-7)

2) Indicate your sex

Female
Male1
2

(8)

3) What is your marital status?

Never married
Presently married or common-law
Separated
Divorced
Widowed1
2
3
4
5

(9)

Other: _____
(specify)

6

4) Where was your mother born?

In Canada:

Newfoundland
Prince Edward Island
Nova Scotia
New Brunswick
Quebec
Ontario
Manitoba
Saskatchewan
Alberta
British Columbia
Northwest Territories
Yukon1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

(10-11)

Elsewhere: _____
(specify)

13

5) Where was your father born?

In Canada:

Newfoundland
Prince Edward Island
Nova Scotia
New Brunswick
Quebec
Ontario
Manitoba
Saskatchewan
Alberta
British Columbia
Northwest Territories
Yukon1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

(12-13)

Elsewhere: _____
(specify)

13

3

Section A

6) In what region, village, town or city were you born?

In Canada:	Province: _____	/ _____	(14-15)
	County / District: _____	/ _____	(16-17)
	City, town or village: _____	/ _____	(18-19)
Elsewhere:	_____ (specify)		

7) In what region, village, town or city are you now residing?

Province: _____	/ _____	(20-21)
County / District: _____	/ _____	(22-23)
City, town or village: _____	/ _____	(24-25)

8) What is your mother tongue (that is, the first language you learned)?

French	1	
English	2	(26)
French and English	3	
Other: _____ (specify)	4	

9) To the best of your knowledge, what is the highest level of education your father attained? (Circle the number corresponding to the highest level.)

None	1	
Elementary	2	
1 to 8 years	3	(27)
Secondary	4	
9 or 10 years	5	
11 to 13 years	6	
College	7	
1 to 2 years	8	
3 years or more		
University		
1 to 3 years		
4 years or more		

9a) To the best of your knowledge, what is the highest level of education your mother attained? (Circle the number corresponding to the highest level.)

None	1	
Elementary	2	
1 to 8 years	3	(28)
Secondary	4	
9 or 10 years	5	
11 to 13 years	6	
College	7	
1 to 2 years	8	
3 years or more		
University		
1 to 3 years		
4 years or more		

*Sections B, C and D apply to different migration patterns.
Please read the following instructions carefully.
If you have difficulties do not hesitate to contact
Mr. Donald Dennie (705) 675-1151
at Laurentian University in Sudbury,
or Mr. Michael Gravelle (807) 475-1585,
Northern Development Councils.*

✓ **Northern Ontario**

The following districts are part of Northern Ontario: Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury and Timiskaming.

✓ **Studies**

Those who left Northern Ontario solely for the purpose of studying full-time but are not settled permanently in that area should answer section B only.

Those who have studied in the South, have worked in the North afterwards and eventually moved out of Northern Ontario, should answer section C only.

✓ **Multiple migrations**

If you have left Northern Ontario several times, answer these questions describing your last move.

SECTION B : NORTH (page 7)

Those who have never left Northern Ontario (those who have always lived in Northern Ontario): ANSWER SECTION B ONLY

SECTION C : NORTH → ELSEWHERE (page 10)

Those who moved out of Northern Ontario and are still living outside Northern Ontario:
ANSWER SECTION C ONLY

SECTIONS C & D : NORTH → ELSEWHERE → NORTH (page 10)

Those who moved out of Northern Ontario for some time and then moved back to Northern Ontario and are still in the North: ANSWER SECTIONS C AND D (BOTH SECTIONS)

SECTION D : ELSEWHERE → NORTH (page 13)

Those who lived elsewhere and moved into Northern Ontario: ANSWER SECTION D ONLY

Section B
Those who never left Northern Ontario
(those who have always lived in Northern Ontario)

15) In general would you say that you are satisfied or dissatisfied to live in Northern Ontario?

Very satisfied	1	
Satisfied	2	
Indifferent	3	
Dissatisfied	4	
Very dissatisfied	5	

16) Have you read documents regarding employment possibilities
 or talked about employment possibilities outside of Northern Ontario?

Yes	1	
No	2	(54)

17) Have you travelled outside of Northern Ontario having in mind
 the specific goal of finding a new place to live?

Yes	1	
No	2	(55)

18) In the next few years, are there possibilities that you will settle outside
 Northern Ontario?

Yes, definitely	1	
Yes, probably	2	
(skip to question 43) Probably not	3	
(skip to question 43) Definitely not	4	(56)

Section B

This question applies to people who consider settling outside Northern Ontario in the next few years.

19) What are the five main reasons that would motivate you to leave Northern Ontario? Identify only five reasons, **one (1) being the most important reason and five (5) being the fifth most important reason**. Read carefully all the items before selecting. Select the **five (5) items** and then rank them from 1 to 5.

The most important
2nd most important
3rd most important
4th most important
5th most important

1 2 3 4 5

20) Northern Ontario life style is too oriented towards sports and outdoor activities	1 2 3 4 5	(57)
21) New experiences and life style in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(58)
22) Lack of employment in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(59)
23) Limited range of employment opportunities in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(60)
24) A job offer in the area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(61)
25) Climate too harsh in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(62)
26) Temperate climate in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(63)
27) Cultural and social activities too limited in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(64)
28) Better opportunities for social and cultural activities in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(65)
29) A wide range of employment opportunities in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(66)
30) Limited career prospects in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(67)
31) Very good career prospects in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(68)
32) Feeling of estrangement and remoteness in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(69)
33) Closer to large cities in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(70)
34) Follow the spouse or the family in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(71)
35) Better wages in the area of destination when compared to those in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(72)
36) The urban life style of the area of destination is appealing	1 2 3 4 5	(73)
37) Educational opportunities are too limited in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(74)
38) Very good educational opportunities in the area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(75)
39) You have to leave Northern Ontario to have a successful career	1 2 3 4 5	(76)
40) Northern Ontario is a region of the past	1 2 3 4 5	(77)
41) The anonymity of the large cities is preferable to the neighbourly relationships of small communities	1 2 3 4 5	(78)
42) In general, the quality of life in Northern Ontario is inferior to the quality of life in other areas	1 2 3 4 5	(79)

Nota Bene: If you have answered question 19 and you have never settled outside Northern Ontario your questionnaire is now completed. Thank you for your cooperation. Please mail the questionnaire in the enclosed stamped envelope.

N.B. Please write your comments on page 16.

Section B

43) What are the five main reasons prompting you to remain a resident of Northern Ontario?
 Identify only five reasons, one (1) being the **most important reason** and five (5) being the **fifth most important reason**. Read carefully all the items before selecting. Select the **five (5)** items and then rank them from 1 to 5.

Card 2 2
 (5)

the most important
 2nd most important
 3rd most important
 4th most important
 5th most important
 1 2 3 4 5

44) Northern Ontario life style (hunting, fishing, outdoor activities, sports) 1 2 3 4 5 (6)

45) Northern Ontario offers a clean environment 1 2 3 4 5 (7)

46) The jobs readily available in Northern Ontario meet my qualifications 1 2 3 4 5 (8)

47) Better opportunities for career prospects in Northern Ontario 1 2 3 4 5 (9)

48) The living environment of the other regions is too polluted and stressful (noise, traffic, pollution...) 1 2 3 4 5 (10)

49) Northern Ontario is more favourable to family life 1 2 3 4 5 (11)

50) I would like to stay close to my family, relatives and friends that are living in Northern Ontario 1 2 3 4 5 (12)

51) Higher wages in Northern Ontario 1 2 3 4 5 (13)

52) Northern Ontario is a good place to start a career 1 2 3 4 5 (14)

53) I prefer the neighbourly relationship of small communities as compared to the anonymity of the large cities 1 2 3 4 5 (15)

54) The slower and less complex life style of Northern Ontario as compared to the life style of the large urban centers 1 2 3 4 5 (16)

55) Northern Ontario is an area with good prospects 1 2 3 4 5 (17)

56) Cost of living (housing...) is more affordable in Northern Ontario 1 2 3 4 5 (18)

57) In general the quality of life in Northern Ontario is superior to the one found in other regions 1 2 3 4 5 (19)

58) Looking for the wilderness and remoteness of Northern Ontario 1 2 3 4 5 (20)

(21-23)

Nota bene: If you have answered question 43 and have never left Northern Ontario, your questionnaire is now completed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please mail the questionnaire in the enclosed stamped envelope.

N.B. Please write your comments on page 16.

9

Section C

*Those who moved out of Northern Ontario
and are still living outside of Northern Ontario
and those who moved out of Northern Ontario for some time
and then moved back to Northern Ontario*

59) In what region, village, town or city were you living immediately before leaving Northern Ontario?

County / District: _____ / _____ (24-25)
City, town or village: _____ / _____ (26-27)

60) In what year did you leave Northern Ontario? _____ (28-29)

61) In what region did you settle immediately after leaving Northern Ontario?

In Canada: Province: _____ / _____ (30-31)
County / District: _____ / _____ (32-33)
City, town or village: _____ / _____ (34-35)
Elsewhere: _____ / _____ (specify) (36)

62) Who decided to leave Northern Ontario?

Myself
My spouse
My spouse and I
My family
My family and I
1
2
3
4
5

Other: _____ / _____ (specify)

63) How old were you when you left Northern Ontario? _____ (38-39)

64) What was your employment situation immediately before leaving Northern Ontario?

Working full-time
Working part-time
Unemployed
Not working by choice
(Skip to question # 66) Full-time student
1
2
3
4
5

65) What was your last full-time occupation (excluding summer jobs) before leaving Northern Ontario?

Job title: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ (41-44)
Description: _____ / _____
Type of company: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ (45-48)

66) What was your employment situation immediately after leaving Northern Ontario?

Working full-time
Working part-time
Unemployed
Not working by choice
Full-time student
1
2
3
4
5

Section C

67) What are the five main reasons that prompted you or your family to leave Northern Ontario? Identify only five reasons, one (1) being the **most important reason** and five (5) being the **fifth most important reason**. Read carefully all the items before selecting. Select the **five (5) items** and then rank them from 1 to 5.

The most important
 1 2 3 4 5
 2nd most important
 3rd most important
 4th most important
 5th most important

68) Northern Ontario life style is too oriented towards sports and outdoor activities	1 2 3 4 5	(50)
69) New experiences and life style in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(51)
70) Lack of employment in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(52)
71) Limited range of employment opportunities in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(53)
72) A job offer in the area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(54)
73) Climate too harsh in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(55)
74) Temperate climate in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(56)
75) Cultural and social activities too limited in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(57)
76) Better opportunities for social and cultural activities in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(58)
77) A wide range of employment opportunities in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(59)
78) Limited career prospects in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(60)
79) Very good career prospects in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(61)
80) Feeling of estrangement and remoteness in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(62)
81) Closer to large cities in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(63)
82) Follow the spouse or the family in area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(64)
83) Better wages in the area of destination when compared to those in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(65)
84) The urban life style of the area of destination is appealing	1 2 3 4 5	(66)
85) Educational opportunities are too limited in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(67)
86) Very good educational opportunities in the area of destination	1 2 3 4 5	(68)
87) You have to leave Northern Ontario to have a successful career	1 2 3 4 5	(69)
88) Northern Ontario is a region of the past	1 2 3 4 5	(70)
89) The anonymity of the large cities is preferable to the neighbourly relationships of small communities	1 2 3 4 5	(71)
90) In general, the quality of life in Northern Ontario is inferior to the quality of life in other areas	1 2 3 4 5	(72)

Section C

91) What was your first full-time (and / or regular) occupation (excluding summer jobs) after leaving Northern Ontario?

Card 3 3
(5)

Job title: 

— J J J —

Description :

(6-9)

Type of Company:

(10-13)

92) Some people are happy to have left Northern Ontario to live elsewhere, while others regret it. How do you feel towards this decision?

Very happy	1
Happy	2
Indifferent	3
Unhappy	4
Very unhappy	5

93) Are there possibilities that you will return to live in Northern Ontario?

Yes, definitely	1	
Yes, probably	2	(15)
Probably not	3	
Definitely not	4	

94) In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your actual region of residence?

Very satisfied	1
Satisfied	2
Indifferent	3
Dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	5

Nota Bene: If you have not moved back to Northern Ontario your questionnaire is now completed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please mail the questionnaire in the enclosed stamped envelope.

Those who have moved back to Northern Ontario and are still living in the North should complete the following section (section D).

N.B. Please write your comments on page 16

Section D

*Those who moved out of Northern Ontario for some time
and then moved back to Northern Ontario
and those who lived elsewhere and moved into Northern Ontario*

95) In what region, village, town or city were you living immediately before moving to Northern Ontario?

In Canada: Province: _____ / _____ (17-18)
 County / District: _____ / _____ (19-20)
 City, town or village: _____ / _____ (21-22)
 Elsewhere: _____ / _____ (specify) _____ (23)

96) In what year did you move (or move back) to Northern Ontario? _____ (24-25)

97) Into what region, village, town or city did you settle immediately after moving to Northern Ontario?

District: _____ / _____ (26-27)
 City, town or village: _____ / _____ (28-29)

98) Who decided to move (or move back) to Northern Ontario?

Myself	1
My spouse	2
My spouse and I	3
My family	4
My family and I	5

(30)

99) In your case is it a first move to Northern Ontario or a return to Northern Ontario?

First move	1
Return	2

(31)

100) How old were you when you moved (or returned) to Northern Ontario? _____ (32-33)

101) What was your employment situation immediately before moving to Northern Ontario?

Working full-time	1
Working part-time	2
Unemployed	3
Not working by choice	4
Full-time student	5

(34)

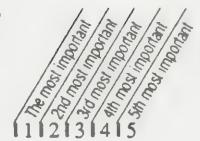
102) What was your last full-time occupation (excluding summer jobs) before moving to Northern Ontario?

Job title: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ (35-38)
 Description: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ (39-42)
 Type of company: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

13

Section D

103) What are the five main reasons that prompted you and your family to move to (or move back to) Northern Ontario? Identify only five reasons, one (1) being the most important reason and five (5) being the fifth most important reason. Read carefully all the items before selecting. Select the five (5) items and then rank them from 1 to 5.



104) Northern Ontario life style (sports, outdoors, hunting, fishing...) is appealing	1 2 3 4 5	(43)
105) New experiences and life style in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(44)
106) Lack of employment in the area left	1 2 3 4 5	(45)
107) Limited range of employment opportunities in area left	1 2 3 4 5	(46)
108) A job offer in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(47)
109) Northern Ontario is more favourable to family life	1 2 3 4 5	(48)
110) Northern Ontario offers a clean environment	1 2 3 4 5	(49)
111) The environment is more polluted (air, noise, traffic...) in the area left	1 2 3 4 5	(50)
112) Seeking the life style of peace and quietness of Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(51)
113) To leave behind a stressful life style in the area left	1 2 3 4 5	(52)
114) The jobs readily available in Northern Ontario meet my qualifications	1 2 3 4 5	(53)
115) The jobs readily available in the region left do not correspond to my qualifications	1 2 3 4 5	(54)
116) Very good opportunities for career prospects in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(55)
117) Very limited opportunities for career prospects in the area left	1 2 3 4 5	(56)
118) Cost of living is more affordable in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(57)
119) Looking for the wilderness and remoteness of Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(58)
120) Follow spouse or (and) family in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(59)
121) Higher wages in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(60)
122) Limited educational opportunities in area left	1 2 3 4 5	(61)
123) Good educational opportunities in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(62)
124) Northern Ontario is a good place to start a career	1 2 3 4 5	(63)
125) I want to stay close to my family, relatives and friends that are living in Northern Ontario	1 2 3 4 5	(64)
126) Northern Ontario is a good place to start a career	1 2 3 4 5	(65)
127) In general, the quality of life in Northern Ontario is superior to the one found in the area left	1 2 3 4 5	(66)

Section D

128) What was your employment situation immediately after moving to Northern Ontario?

(67)

Working full-time
Working part-time
Unemployed
Not working by choice
Full-time student

129) What was your first full-time occupation (excluding summer jobs) after moving to (or moving back to) Northern Ontario?

Job title: _____

Description :

Type of company:

— 1 —

(69-72)

—J—J—J—J—

130) Some people are happy to have moved to Northern Ontario, while others regret it. How do you feel towards this decision?

Very happy
Happy
Indifferent
Unhappy
Very unhappy

131) Are there possibilities that you will leave Northern Ontario to settle elsewhere?

Yes, definitely
Yes, probably
Probably not
Definitely not

132) In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with living in Northern Ontario?

Very satisfied
Satisfied
Indifferent
Dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied

(80)

Thank you for your cooperation.

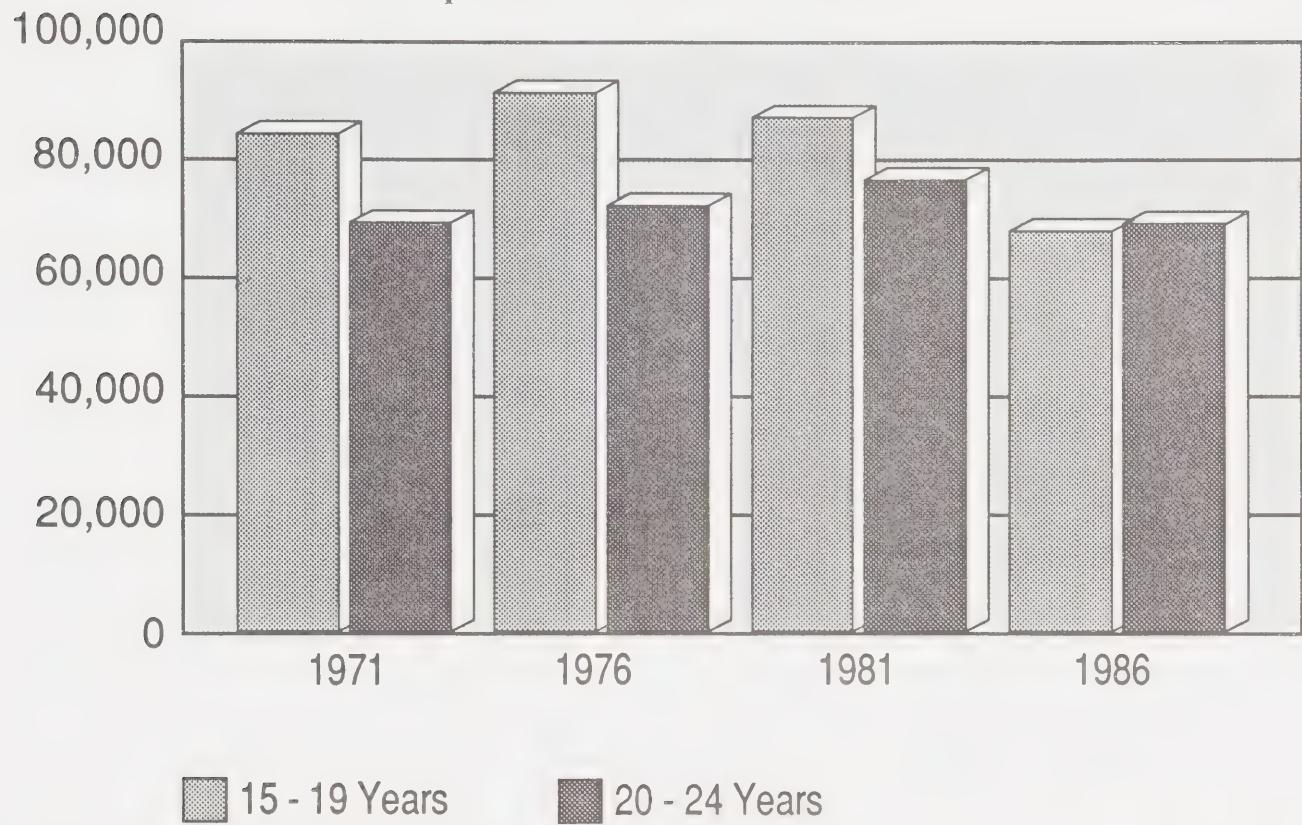
Please mail the questionnaire in the enclosed stamped envelope.

N.B. Please write your comments on the next page.

Comments :

Appendix F

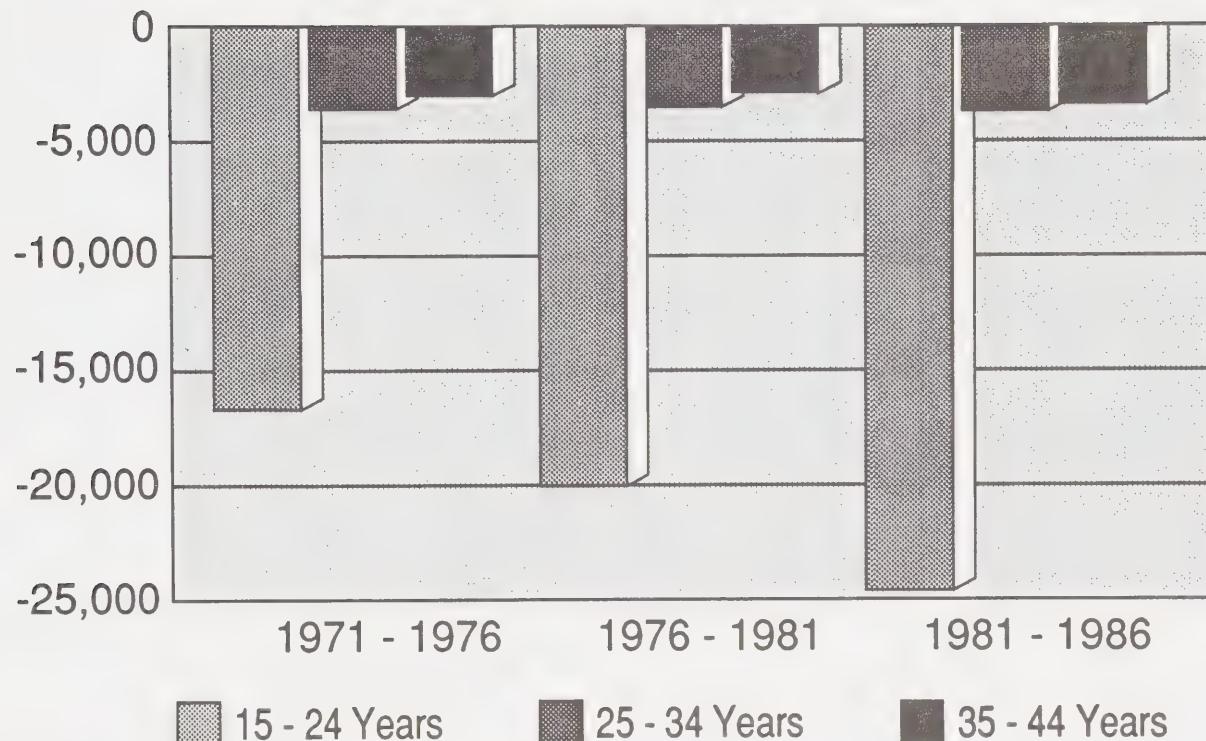
Youth Population in Northern Ontario



(Source: Statistics Canada, 1971-1986; Treasury and Economics, 1989)

Appendix G

Net Migration Northern Ontario, 1971 to 1986

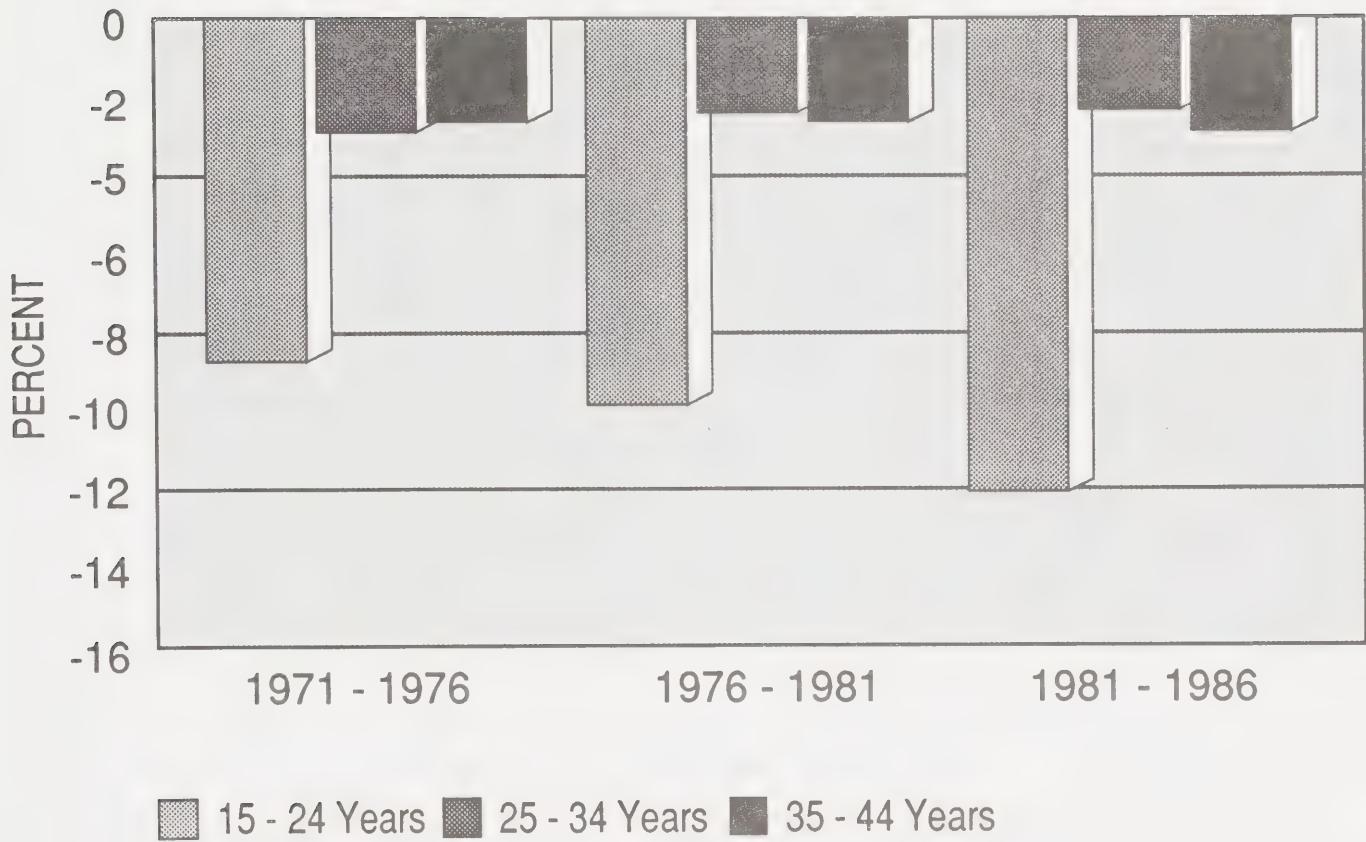


(Source: Statistics Canada, 1971-1986; Treasury and Economics, 1989)

Note: The net migration figures are derived by comparing the same youth cohort at two Census periods. The figures ignore the impact of deaths.

Appendix H

Net Migration (as a proportion of the population) Northern Ontario, 1971 to 1986

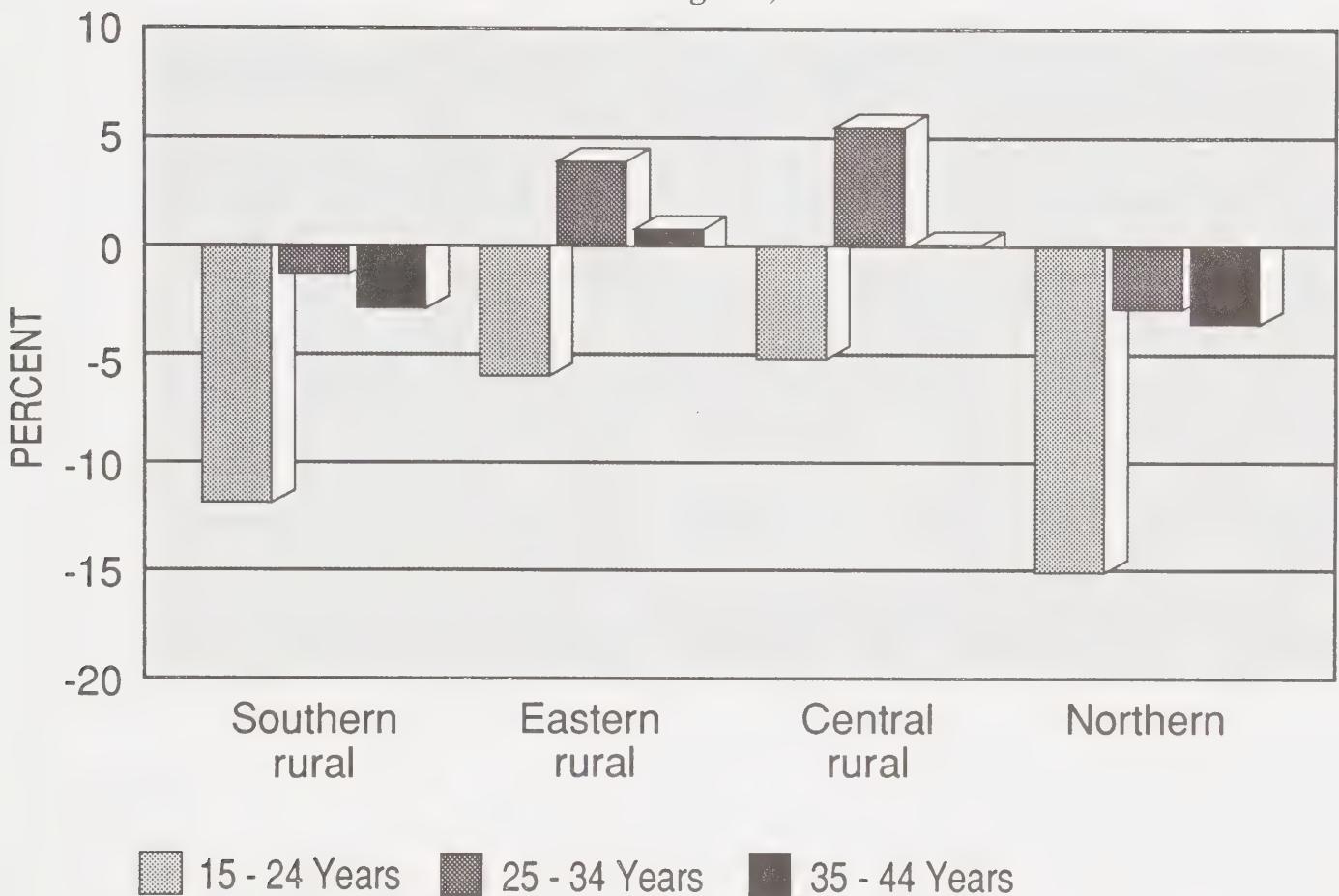


(Source: Statistics Canada, 1971-1986; Treasury and Economics, 1989)

Note: The net migration figures are derived by comparing the same youth cohort at two Census periods. The figures ignore the impact of deaths.

Appendix I

Net Migration (as a proportion of the population) Four Ontario Regions, 1981 to 1986



Eastern Rural: Counties of Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Lennox and Addington, Prescott and Russell, Prince Edward, Renfrew, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Central Rural: Counties of Dufferin, Haliburton, Muskoka, Northumberland, Peterborough, Simcoe, Victoria and Wellington

Southern Rural: Counties of Brant, Bruce, Elgin, Grey, Haldimand-Norfolk, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Oxford and Perth

Northern: includes the Regional Municipality of Sudbury and the following districts: Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay

(Source: Statistics Canada, 1986; Treasury and Economics, 1989)

Note: The net migration figures are derived by comparing the same youth cohort at two Census periods. The figures ignore the impact of deaths.

Appendix J

Primary Reasons for Leaving the North (as identified by NDC survey respondents)

Reason:	1 st Selec- tion:	2 nd Selec- tion:	3 rd Selec- tion:	Total:
Lifestyle of destination	50	41	123	214
Education opportunities	73	37	44	154
Job offer	65	41	39	145
Work opportunities	8	35	97	140
Good career prospects	19	32	88	139
Activities in destination	6	19	113	138
Limited employment in the North	30	30	72	132
Limited prospects in the North	17	27	80	124
Limited educational Opportunities in the North	39	28	46	113
Lack of employment in the North	48	18	30	96
Follow spouse/family	57	8	29	94
Total Number of Respondents: 491				

Source: Roger Bernard, *Youth in Northern Ontario: Migration Research Project*, September 1990

Appendix K

Primary Reasons for Moving to the North (as identified by NDC survey respondents)

Reason:	1 st Selec- tion:	2 nd Selec- tion:	3 rd Selec- tion:	Total:
Job offer in the North	47	8	9	64
Lifestyle of the destination	7	9	31	47
Favourable to family life	5	11	27	43
Lifestyle/sports/outdoors	5	7	30	42
Follow spouse/family	21	10	5	36
Seeking quiet lifestyle	3	4	27	34
Clean environment	1	4	24	29
More affordable	2	5	16	23
Higher quality of life	2	2	19	23
Good prospects	3	4	15	22
Total Number of Respondents: 124				

Source: Roger Bernard, *Youth in Northern Ontario: Migration Research Project*, September 1990

Appendix L

Primary Reasons for Returning to the North (as identified by NDC survey respondents)

Reason:	1 st Selec- tion:	2 nd Selec- tion:	3 rd Selec- tion:	Total:
Close to family/friends	32	20	41	93
Job offer in the North	58	13	13	84
Lifestyle/sports/outdoors	6	18	43	67
Favourable to family life	6	21	38	65
More affordable	7	8	44	59
Seeking quiet lifestyle	2	6	37	45
Higher quality of life	10	6	27	43
Clean environment	1	3	35	39
Follow family/spouse	21	8	9	38
Leave behind stress	5	4	14	23
Total Number of Respondents: 175				

Source: Roger Bernard, *Youth in Northern Ontario: Migration Research Project*, September 1990

Appendix M

Primary Reasons for Staying in the North (as identified by NDC survey respondents)

Reason:	1 st Selec- tion:	2 nd Selec- tion:	3 rd Selec- tion:	Total:
Close to family/friends	74	25	56	155
Prefer smaller communities	21	31	77	129
Favourable to family life	25	32	57	114
Lifestyle/sports/outdoors	23	19	71	113
Slower lifestyle	13	26	65	104
Stressful environment in other regions	16	27	56	99
Clean environment in the North	17	14	66	97
More affordable	9	15	66	90
Higher quality of life	13	7	47	67
Meet job qualifications	10	11	30	51
Total Number of Respondents: 376				

Source: Roger Bernard, *Youth in Northern Ontario: Migration Research Project*, September 1990

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